mosaic

the george brown college of applied arts and technology Vol. 2, No. 3, June 1974

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— Stan Berry photo

GEORGE BROWN CONCRETE CANOEISTS . . . *Rick Bork (left) and Larry Lynde*

GBC canoe no lightweight

They didn't place first . . . second . . . or even third.

But they didn't sink.

And when you're the crew of a concrete canoe, that in itself is an accomplishment.

The crew — two crews actually — was composed of Architectural Technology students Bert Vanderwerff, Stan Berry, Larry Lynde and Rick Bork.

The concrete canoe was George Brown's entry in the Concrete Canoe Race sponsored by the University of Toronto and held mid-April on Grenadier Pond in High Park.

Fourteen canoes were entered in the race from schools such as Carleton, Ryerson, Sir George Williams, Seneca, Mohawk, McMaster, Fanshawe and even two universities in the States.

George Brown's team of Vanderwerff and Berry came in fourth out of seven, while the team of Lynde and Bork placed sixth out of seven in their respective heats.

A couple of boats didn't even complete the 600 yard triangular course. Two sank and one was disqualified.

Contest regulations specified that primary binding material for each canoe was to be hydraulic cement, that no seats were allowed and that student participants must contribute to the construction of their canoe.

Construction of the George Brown entry took three weeks from scratch to finish, with all the work done outside of class time.

Alex Pound, Assistant Chairman in the Architectural Technology Division, provided a tremendous amount of assistance and, according to Stan Berry, was "the ramrod behind the whole operation". Technical assistance was also provided by part-time concrete instructor Tony Alexander and by the plastering and lathing departments.

And the finished product?

Well, she measured 13 feet, eight inches long and just under three feet wide with a displacement of about 300 pounds. Buoyancy was provided by styrofoam sheeting and, in the words of Bart Vanderwerff, "she was as dry as a bone".

"When she was going she looked like she had a battleship hull. If we could only have kept her going in a straight line, we might have been able to place second."

As it was, the GBC canoe was practically raced sideways. There was a strong wind and with no keel or rudder, she was difficult to control.

And the cost?

Approximately $150 worth of hydraulic cement, wire mesh, styrofoam, adhesives, epoxy, paint, plaster lathing, bashed fingers, cuts and scrapes.

None of the four George Brown student participants will be back at the College next year. Berry and Vanderwerff graduated this spring from the Concrete Technician program, Lynde from Civil Engineering Technology and Bork from Construction Technology. However, Berry is already considering putting together pictures, diagrams and suggestions for improving next year's entry.

ACOUSTICS *students Dave Bradbury (left) and Leo Butko test audiometric equipment at the George Brown booth in the Pollution Control Show held last month in the Automotive Building at the CNE. Acoustics instructor Len Blizzard says the George Brown booth, which offered free hearing examinations, was one of the busier booths at the show. The examinations revealed that at least 40 per cent of the people tested suffered hearing loss and should see a doctor. The hearing booth might be included this year as part of the College's annual exhibit at the Canadian National Exhibition.*

WANTED

Full-time editor to develop and run George Brown College student newspaper. Send resumes to: Editor, Student Newspaper, P.O. Box 1015, Station B, Toronto.

Instructor's works among world's best

George Brown College enamelling instructor Alan Perkins has been chosen as one of 12 Canadian craftsmen whose work will represent Canada at the World Crafts Exhibition in Toronto this summer.

An example of his work — three exquisite silver and enamel wine goblets — will take its place at the Exhibition among 600 specially selected items representative of craftsmen from 78 different countries.

Each country was invited to submit approximately 60 pieces to the International Selection Committee for jurying. Included in the initial submission for Canada was the work of Crystal Klocke, supervisor of George Brown's Jewellery Arts program.

This is the first world craft exhibition of its kind and is directly related to the tenth anniversary of the World Crafts Council which held its biennial conference at Toronto's York University this month, June 9 to 15. Up to 14,000 delegates from 78 member countries attended the conference.

Perkins sees hosting the World Crafts Council Conference and Exhibition as a real coup for Canada.

"This will be a highlight in Canada's history," he says. "It's limited in that it's crafts only, but I would compare it to something like Expo."

He adds it could have an enormous effect on Canada.

"We're experiencing a crafts revival and renaissance right now. It's partly a result of people wanting to get back to self-expression. Industry does a good job of producing goods but everything is so alike. People want things around them that are different . . . unusual."

A Canadian-born artist who trained in architecture, Perkins points out that the Exhibition will provide a unique opportunity for Canadians to see crafts from all over the world. It's being held at the Ontario Science Centre, June 11 to September 2.

Alan Perkins is hopeful that Canada's current hobby approach to crafts will change and that more and more people will make it a lifestyle.

"This is the direction I see it going," he says. "I think of fine craftsmanship as fine art. We need more artists setting up their own studios, making crafts their lifestyle, rather than just treating it as a hobby or working for industry or jewellers."

Perkins has been teaching enamelling in the College's Jewellery Arts program on a part-time basis for over four years.

His class emphasizes not only how enamelling can be used in jewellery arts but in industry and architecture as well. A master enamelist, he has exhibited for many years in important craft shows in Canada, the United States and Europe and is now primarily engaged on commissions for architects and interior designers.

— Tony Hassel photo (top)

ALAN PERKINS . . . *Master enamelist, with student (top right). His silver and enamel goblets represent Canada at the current World Craft Exhibition in Toronto.*

— Peter Leyden photo

Highlighting our mosaic of nationalities

Cultural Days were a new phenomena introduced at Terraulay Campus this year.

Originated by students in the post-secondary Business and Commerce Division, these days highlighted entertainments characteristic of Canada's mosaic of cultures.

Students Pat Diakopoulos and Georgia Papoutsis (pictured at left) pose in front of a Greek exhibit.

A total of three Cultural Days were held this year.

The third Cultural Day was called Canada Day.

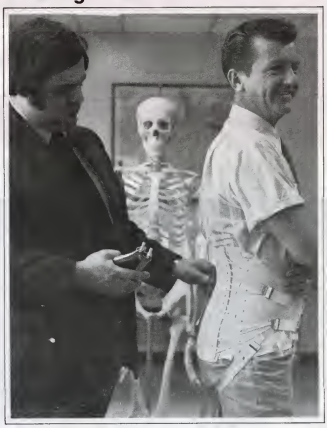
YEAR ROUND-UP

A look at some high points of the year.

Duffers return

GOLF TOURNAMENT: The mosquitoes were biting but that didn't deter 28 George Brown golfing enthusiasts from teeing off at the Annual Spring Golf Tournament, June 1, at the King City Golf and Country Club. The tournament doubled as the official qualifying round to determine the team representing George Brown at the Annual Community College Golf Tournament, June 21, at Wyldewood. And this year's GBC team? The formidable combination of **Ken MacLennan,** Dean of Government Programs; **Bert Shaw,** Furniture Upholstery instructor; **John McIntyre,** Carpentry instructor; **Ray MacPherson,** Refrigeration instructor; **Brian Beetles,** Principal of Casa Loma Campus; and **Ben Litner,** Academic instructor. Last year GBC placed second out of 15 CAAT's competing.

A fitting event



Students in Orthotics-Prosthetics were treated to a fashion show with a difference this spring.

Garments modelled ranged from sacroiliac belts and cervical collars to hyperextension braces, lumbosacral and thoraco lumbar garments.

The event was a special three-day demonstration put on for second-year Orthotics-Prosthetics students at the Casa Loma Campus by the S. H. Camp Company of Michigan.

Company representatives Henry Rosenburg and Charles Crossland demonstrated the fitting of a variety of brace-type garments contoured to fit the individual body shape.

The demonstration included lectures, films and a final examination given by the company. It was, in effect, a crash course in orthotics and is part of the regular program.

People from industry were invited to the event and, says Ron Brett, Director emeritus of the program, the response was excellent.

George Brown is the only community college in Canada to offer an Orthotics-Prosthetics program.

Marketing students rate high

George Brown College Marketing students entered the third annual student marketing competition, sponsored by the Industrial Marketers of Toronto, for the first time this year.

The all-day competition was held March 21 at the Park Plaza Hotel.

The George Brown College team (pictured above) consisted of students Peter Barnas, Irene Jank, Denis Lefebvre, Tony Lippa and John Tsoumas. All were in the fourth semester of the two-year Business Administration program — Marketing major — and were selected by a class vote to represent the College.

They competed against students from Centennial College, Humber College, Ryerson Polytechnical Institute, Seneca College, Sheridan College and York University.

The York team won the competition and the Canadian General Electric trophy. Nevertheless, the judges emphasized that all teams did exceptionally well, with a spread of only 10 percentage points between the highest and the lowest. "And," adds Business and Commerce instructor Bob Stamp, "our two-year students competed most favourably against third and fourth-year students. Good for student morale and ours."

Great graphics: awards

It's been a great year for first-year Graphic Design student Barbara Spurll, pictured above receiving the Royal Ontario Museum poster contest award.

Not only did Barbara win first prize in the annual ROMart poster competition (for her poster advertising the students' outdoor exhibition and sale of art at the Museum, May 24 and 25), but the honours student also won first prize in the recent Metropolitan Citizens' Safety Council logo competition.

George Brown Graphic Design students Cathie Hatanaka (above, far left and Rick Nutter (third from left) received Honourable Mention awards in the ROMart poster competition and George Brown College Commercial Art student Margaret Martin won third prize in the MCSC logo competition.

By Jim Cici
Graphic Arts Division

It was a big day at The Terrace.

Graphic Arts Division staff, students and technicians were guests at The Terrace Curling Rinks on March 7 for a day with the sliding stones.

Six "outstanding" teams competed (quite competitively I might add) for the Annual Graphic Arts Curling Title.

The action-packed series ended with "Forsyth's Shooting Blue Flames" and "Doug Nash and his Nasholers" at a stand-off.

A first for most competitors, the day was a definite success and a gas. Our thanks to Barry Bevan for his enthusiasm.

A winning welder

George Brown College graduate George Pollman (second from left) receives the 1973 Canadian Welding Society Toronto Chapter award from Don Hilliard (second from right), Chairman of the CWS Toronto Chapter. Pollman was the top welder in George Brown's Welding Specialist program. Looking on are George Betts (left), Department Head in charge of Welding at George Brown College, and John Willmott, Welding Specialist instructor, also at George Brown College.

Staff development: building human resources to the full measure

Malcolm Sykes, former Principal of Kensington Campus, has been appointed Dean of Staff Development. His new office is located at 500 MacPherson Avenue. Below he discusses some of his views concerning Staff Development.

The prime purpose of the College, I feel, is to provide appropriate opportunities for students to prepare themselves for employment.

The arrangement of College services to bring this about may generally be seen as being organized into three basic elements: Faculty, Support Services and Management.

I see the purpose of Staff Development in the College as being one which enhances qualities of operation of these elements.

Specifically it seeks to improve the ability of individuals to perform particular tasks and to carry these out effectively as members of the organized College structure.

It is founded on the dignity and potential ability of the individual and on the value of sound organizational practices.

In general terms, the responsibilities of the Staff Development Office cover the theory and practise of learning; the administration of staff training programs (Management, Faculty and Support Staff); and assistance with organization problem solving.

No commitments have been made yet for prescribed action to be taken in the name of Staff Development. Much of what is now being done will be continued and reinforced.

In the early stages, however, it is probable that a close review will be made of the Faculty In-Service Program and selected issues affecting Support Staff and Management.

A wide range of capability and experience exists among the staff and it is expected that all resources will be tapped to ensure the validity and integrity of the operation.

I see Staff Development in George Brown College as a highly personal matter and it will continue to be treated as such.

It is not simply a collection of attractive courses or an exercise to be endured. Rather it is a process whereby each person may achieve a full measure of achievement within the framework of a most worthwhile profession.

SUMMERTIME and the learning is easy. Should be fun too, judging from the list of part-time courses drawn up for George Brown's special Summer program. Yoga, Acting, Ceramics, Chinese Painting, Basketball Education and Barbecuing are just a few of the over 60 courses that will be offered this June, July and August at the Casa Loma, Kensington and Terraulay Campuses. Length of courses varies from a few days to several weeks.

MIKOLAJ KORTT . . . *Wood carver.*

Sculptor and wood carver to teach new summer course

Wood sculptor and instructor Mikolaj (Nick) Kortt ran his hand lovingly over a small wood carving and spoke optimistically about a revival in the arts.

As an artist — his murals, wall reliefs and sculptures can be found in private collections around the world — and as a teacher — he will be teaching a part-time course on Wood Carving at the Casa Loma Campus this summer — he feels that Canada's approach to the arts has undergone a tremendous change in the past five years.

"Just look at the number of courses now offered in the creative arts," he says. "A few years ago you could count them on one hand."

He adds that in the six years he taught extension courses in woodcarving and sculpture at Hamilton's Mohawk College, he noticed a definite trend towards more 18 to 25-year-olds signing up for his course.

"Everybody is born with a certain amount of talent," he explains. "We lose it as we grow older, as we try to become more sophisticated."

The only prerequisite for his three-week, 9 am - 3 pm course is an interest in wood carving.

Participants will start working with wood immediately. Size of carvings and wall reliefs will be limited only by the imagination and will of the students.

A true artist in his own right, Nick Kortt has been self-employed as a sculptor and wood carver since 1956. Working out of a small studio in Thornhill, he has exhibited his large three-dimensional wall murals and sculptured carvings for many years at exhibitions and shows across Canada and in New York.

Special commissions of note include work for the Canadiana Gallery in Edmonton, the Faculty of Dentistry at the U of T, and a series of colourful murals for the Windsor Raceway.

Need a loan?

Applications for Ontario Student Awards for full and part-time students are still being accepted.

For more information, see Student Awards Officer Mrs. Marks at 500 MacPherson Avenue or call 967-1212, local 235.

ALBERT DAVIES . . . *Antiquing expert.*

A summer for upholstering, finishing and antiquing old and new furniture

Furniture — both old and new — will be antiqued, refinished and reupholstered in a variety of hobby-type courses offered at the College this summer.

Painting and decorating instructor Albert Davies will be leading a two-week Furniture Antiquing course at the Casa Loma Campus.

This is a course for the amateur who's interested in stripping down, repainting and redecorating old or new furniture.

Davies says the course will be relatively unstructured with participants working on their own pieces of furniture at pretty well their own rate.

An expert in marbling, graining, decorative painting and furniture antiquing, he points out that pieces to be antiqued don't have to be good, old-fashioned pieces of furniture.

"Brand new unpainted furniture can look marvelous when antiqued and decorated with a few scrolls, flowers, leaves or whatever," he says.

An instructor in the Architectual Technology Division, Davies has enjoyed a 20-year career in the field of painting and decorating. He laments the fact that the art and craft aspect of painting and decorating is dying out in the industry today and adds that in his day, painters and decorators were not merely "pushers of paint rollers".

"We learnt the practical and manual skills from our employers on the job and the artistic skills from going to art school at night, he says. (He attended the Liverpool School of Art in England). "We weren't aiming at any particular art qualifications, it was more a case of becoming saturated in the craft."

Davies will be teaching two Furniture Antiquing courses. The first runs July 2 to July 15; the second from July 16 to July 29. Both courses will run 9 am to noon, Monday to Friday.

Alan Graham, instructor in the Fashion Technology Division, will be teaching a Furniture Upholstery course, July 22 to August 2, at the Kensington Campus. The course will cover practical elementary upholstery and will run from 9 am to 3 pm, Monday to Friday.

Peter Codd, also from Fashion Technology, will teach the first of the Furniture Finishing courses, July 8 to July 19, at the Kensington Campus. This is a beginner's course covering surface preparation and basic colour treatments including staining and glazing. Participants will also learn hand and spray application of varnish, shellac and lacquer. The second course will run from August 12 to 23.

GBC student wins $700 for essay

"Ontario, Something for Everyone" is the theme of an essay which has made Secretarial Science student Helen Playfoot $700 richer.

Helen won first prize in an essay contest sponsored by the Women's Advisory Committee of the Ministry of Industry and Tourism.

She captured not only the Toronto-area award, but the award for the best over-all essay in the province.

There were 46 other essays in the competition which was open to all full-time post-secondary students in community colleges in Ontario.

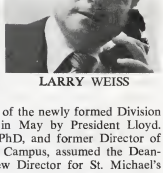
people

NEW FACES, NEW APPOINTMENTS: President **Clifford Lloyd** announced a major shuffle in senior administrative positions last March. The bulk of these new appointments are now in effect. **Harry Ballantyne,** former Dean of Business and Commerce, is now concentrating all his activity in developing new management programs within TIBI and Continuing Ed. **Brad Webb,** newly retired from his position as Dean of Academic Studies, has undertaken the special assignment of developing programs in the field of Theatre Arts. Few people realize it, but Brad has been heavily involved in this area since last September. The College's successful collaboration with the **Canadian Dance Drama Company** and **Factory Theatre Lab** in offering dance and drama programs is one of the results of his efforts. Enrollments in music, acting and dance courses have already reached the 700 mark and, according to Brad, the Theatre Arts program is "already taking on sizeable proportions". Brad's new office is located at the College Campus.

New Dean of the Academic Studies Division is **Howell Pritchard** who is still located at Casa Loma Campus. Succeeding Pritchard as Dean of Engineering Technology will be **Dr. Ian Low,** Dean of Faculty at Lambton College of Applied Arts and Technology in Sarnia. Low's appointment is effective August 1, 1974. Another new face at George Brown is that of **Laurent (Larry) Weiss** who was appointed new Director of Personnel effective May 21. Weiss came to George Brown from the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture and Food where he was Assistant Personnel Director. Former Director of Personnel **Barbara Ferrett** is the new Director of Student Services. Her office is still located at 500 MacPherson. She succeeded **Jim Turner** who is now Dean of Business and Commerce at Teraulay Campus.

Dr. (Bob) Gwilliam has moved from the office of Principal at College Campus to that position at Kensington Campus. The Principalship at College has been assumed by **Ray Santin,** Dean of Language Training, College Campus is now exclusively a language studies campus. **Malcolm Sykes,** former Principal of Kensington Campus and Director of Staff Development Programs, is now devoting all his energies to the latter in his new position as Dean of Professional Development.

SISTER MARION BARRON



LARRY WEISS

George Brown's first Dean of the newly formed Division of Nursing was announced in May by President Lloyd. **Sister Marion Barron,** CSJ, PhD, and former Director of Nursing at the St. Michael's Campus, assumed the Deanship on June 1, 1974. A new Director for St. Michael's Campus had not yet been appointed at press time.

AWARDS AND LAURELS: **Sophie Davidson,** instructor in the Fashion Technology Division, has been awarded the Golden Needle Award by the Canadian Sewing Association for her outstanding contributions to education in the Canadian fashion field. . . **Carol Ann Brady,** second-year Nursing student at the St. Michael's Campus, has been chosen to present her paper on Huntington's Chorea at the annual convention of the **Canadian Association of Neurological and Neurosurgical Nurses,** June 19-21 in Saskatoon, Saskatchewan. Carol Ann prepared her paper on the disease process in addition to regular class assignments and entered it in an essay contest on neurology sponsored by the Association. As author of the winning paper, she receives an all-expense paid trip to the Convention. . . **Peter Codd,** instructor in the Furniture Finishing Department, recently addressed the annual meeting of the **Association of Professional Engineers of Ontario,** Toronto-Dufferin chapter, on the history of furniture in Canada. . . **Monique Gnehm,** Honours Graduate from the Creative Fashions program, 1973, is now working with Vogue Patterns in New York and with well-known designer **Bill Blass**. . . Letters of thanks are still pouring in to the Engineering Technology Division with regard to the College's (and in particular **George Danac's**) contributions to the recent Eleventh Annual Conference of the Numerical Control Society held here in Toronto. **Melvin Monro** of the **Boeing Commercial Airplane Company,** Seattle, Washington, writes, "I wish to complement the Conference Committee of the NCS Toronto Chapter for organizing the best technical conference I have ever attended. . . We were particularly pleased with the friendliness of your people and with the many assists given by the George Brown College Chapter". . . **Sid Schipper,** Dean of the Fashion Technology Division, will be attending the annual meeting of the **Canada Fur Council** in Victoria, B.C., June 22 and 23.

CONGRATULATIONS: To Mr. and Mrs. **Aziz Jafari,** Computer Studies Department, on the birth of their son in February. And to Mr. and Mrs. **Bob Struthers,** (Bob is Course Supervisor in Hotel and Motel Administration and Food Administration) on the birth of their daughter, April (even though she was born in March). Congratulations, too, to **Doug Stulla,** Phys. Ed. Department, on his marriage this month, and to **Helen Switzer,** Secretary to the Vice-Presidents, on her forthcoming marriage in September.

Arrivals, departures and new faces

COMINGS AND GOINGS: Best wishes to new arrivals to GBC and recent departures including . . . . **Ron Brett,** director of the Orthotics-Prosthetics Department, who has left the College in order to take up a new position as Director of Prosthetics in the Orthotics Department at Kingston General Hospital. He will also be lecturing in the medical school at neighbouring Queen's University. Ron set up the Orthotics-Prosthetics Department at George Brown in January 1970. Replacing Ron is **Jack Bradbury,** formerly in Rehabilitation Medicine at Toronto Wellesley Hospital. . . . New secretary to the Dean of Engineering is **Debbie Brothers** . . . **Joan Thornton,** instructor in Applied Arts, is setting a College record. She's the first person to go on sabbatical, Joan's one-year leave commences this September when she returns to the U of T to complete her BScN degree . . . **Peggy Peers,** GBC Personnel Officer for the past year and a half, is now Director of Personnel for the Northern Services division of the Saskatchewan Government. She's working in La Ronge, a small northern Saskatchewan community with a population of about 2,000 . . . **Joan Tackey,** Campus Food Service Manager, has left the College after a long association with the Food Technology Division. Joan was one of the first graduates of the Food Administration program. Taking her place as Campus Food Service Manager is **John Phoenix,** former food technician. . . Phys. ed. coach and instructor **Eva Langley** is leaving the College at the end of a most successful sports year to take up a new teaching position in a Bowmanville-area high school. Eva and her husband have bought a house in Bowmanville and found the hours spent commuting too time-consuming. . . **Alex Barbier,** who's been playing professional hockey in Amsterdam for the past year is back in the Phys. Ed. Department teaching on a part-time basis. He'll be teaching full-time in September as Recreation Co-ordinator and will take over Eva's responsibilities at the Kensington Campus gym.

Don Jail volunteer program:

Bringing the outside into the inside

By ANNE HOWARD
Mosaic Editor

AN EXCERPT FROM A LETTER which recently crossed my desk:

"I am an ex-con but this time I am going to stay out of jail. Because I met a man, Mr. Bob French, a volunteer at the Inn on the Don, as he calls the Don Jail. This man has come every week for almost four years to talk to us, bring in lawyers, friends etc. . . . If some of us, very few, are real bad, most of us only need to meet a Mr. French."

The letter intrigued me. Bob French is an Electronics instructor at Terauley Campus and, I learned, the nucleus of his original volunteer group had been George Brown staff and students. As Mosaic editor I felt it was a story idea worth investigating.

My "investigations" led to three thought-provoking weeks, several evenings spent in the Don Jail with the volunteers, talking with and listening to inmates, and numerous lunch-hour conversations discussing Canada's penal system.

I am not now an authority on the Canadian legal system, but I have realized the importance of knowing one's legal rights. Nor am I a signed-up volunteer. That is a personal commitment which I feel I am not yet ready to make.

I have learned, though, that society, for its own sake, cannot continue to close its eyes on a penal system which is both outmoded and out-of-date. Nor can it continue to ignore the eyesore which is the Don Jail and still hold pride in its urban progress.

This was to have been a factual article — instead it has evolved into a series of impressions. The group of George Brown people who go down to the Don Jail once, twice or even three times a week cannot simply be branded as volunteers with the implicit connotation of 'do-gooders'. In a place like the Don Jail there's no room for do-gooders. The questions, the reasons, the commitments go much further.

* * *

TUESDAY LUNCH HOUR at the Nickelodeon. The meeting place for the co-ordinators of the different volunteer programs now in effect at the Don: Tuesday night co-ordinators — Rhonda Dixon, from the College Campus Health Centre, and Don Stanley, Sergeant in the Community Services Division of the Metro Toronto Police; Wednesday night co-ordinators — Tony Mills, Assistant Curator of Egyptology at the Royal Ontario Museum and Gail Burgess, from the National Film Board; Thursday night co-ordinators — Judy Lister, Library Technician at Terauley Campus and Gord Haliburton, Data Supervisor at Bell Telephone. And, of course, Bob French, who originated the volunteer program — the first program of its kind in any jail in Canada — almost four years ago. Today he's sort of an overseer of the entire program, running it as he puts it, "out of my hip pocket, my filing cabinet and my head".

The conversation today circles around Paul Mulhearn, Assistant Superintendant of the Don Jail.

French and Gord Haliburton mention that they are the only two to have ever seen any of the jail other than the Chapel where the volunteer programs are held. They maintain that just one glimpse would be enough to familiarize volunteers with what it's like where the inmates spend most of their time and why they're so desperate to get out. Mulhearn isn't keen. He says he gets bad feedback from the prisoners regarding tours. Haliburton responds "No, a tour of the empty corridors would be equally effective." Mulhearn relaxes and says he'll see if it can be arranged.

* * *

TUESDAY EVENING. Cold and wet. The Don Jail lives up to its reputation. Large and forboding. Fortress-like. An uneasy feeling — don't know what to expect. The peephole opens and the first door of many swings open. I have to leave my purse with a guard. If there's one rule which I'll hear time and again it's "nothing in and nothing out".

The guards are casual and relaxed and joke with French and the others, some of whom they've known for years.

Suddenly we're in a massive domed area. Dim lighting. A sense of unreality. Up an iron staircase to a walkway circling this enormous area and into a small plain room marked 'Chapel'. Little to distinguish it as such except for the wooden cross on a plain wooden table at one end. Stacks of institutional chairs piled in corners. The group sets to work spreading them in a circle.

The sound of keys in the door again — I hadn't realized we'd been locked in — and the first group of inmates saunters in. They slouch into chairs around the room. A few are talking, smoking. I'm surprised to find they're all young, mostly in their early 20s. Longish hair down to their shoulders. Dressed sloppily in old jeans or white institutional straight-legged pants and white T-shirts. All wear paint-splattered work boots.

They number about 30. Their attendance here tonight is purely voluntary, although sometimes the social worker does suggest attendance to those she feels will particularly benefit from the program.

Rhonda Dixon stands up and introduces tonight's speaker, Bill Frye, Principal of Terauley Campus. Frye has been here numerous times before and knows what to expect. He remains seated and talks casually about Community College and how you don't have to have Grade 12 or 13 to get in. Talks too about the fact that hundreds of fellows don't know how to read or write, that it's no disgrace, that they can still learn.

The atmosphere is restless, though. Some of the fellows are listening, others talking together, laughing, joking. I learn afterwards that tonight is an extremely tense night. Two recent suicides at the Don have made everyone uneasy. The talk over, the group breaks up with the six volunteers joining smaller, separate groups.

I leave now. French takes me over to the Women's Side. A new wing, it's not quite as ominous — still a maximum security prison, though. There's room here for about 100 women — present occupancy rate is about half full. One of the matrons shows us the lounge. It's more human than I had expected with a cabinet full of dolls and dolls clothes lining one wall.

There are two or three sewing machines in the room and two typewriters. French, I learn, is setting up a Monday night program to teach the women typing. At the time this article was written he needed four more typewriters and wasn't sure where he was going to get them. The two he had were borrowed from the College on a type of permanent loan basis.

The volunteer program is just that — voluntary — with any educational resource materials coming out of the volunteers pockets or from their own initiative. Guest speakers have included Gordon Armstrong, Vice-President of Academics, Barbara Ferrett, former Director of Personnel, and Bill Dykstra, from Electronics, to mention just a few.

French is working on getting a grant from industry. With something like 36 volunteers, the program is now in need of a full-time secretary. The group stresses they don't want a grant from the Department of Corrections — such a connection could possibly result in loss of their credibility with the inmates.

A TV sits in one corner. It's only recently that radio and TV have been allowed in the Don. Rita Edwards, Chief College Librarian, and her husband, used to show movies on a regular basis, but now that TV is allowed, the interest in films has declined a little.

GBC VOLUNTEERS . . . *(from left) Greville Clarke, Bob French, Anne Howard, Carol Cunningham and (centre, right hand photo) Rhonda Dixon.*

I leave the Don feeling better than expected and with the realization that people are people no matter when or where.

The group goes to a restaurant for coffee. I learn that the bulk of tonight's participants were first or second offenders in on minor non-violence crimes. All have sentences of two years minus a day, or less.

This jail is meant for temporary stop-overs before transfers to other institutions in the rest of the province. Hard-line cases uncontrollable in other institutions are also sent back here for the duration of their sentence.

I'm surprised to find the rest of the group in low spirits. Rhonda Dixon says she's never heard such bitter complaints — about the size of the cells (the width of the sleeping cot), about mistreatment of sick prisoners, about lack of recreational facilities. The recent suicides have made them all edgy.

What can a volunteer do, I ask.

Be an anxiety-reliever. Listen.

* * *

WEDNESDAY NIGHT. It's a warm sunny evening and I arrive early. Somehow the Don doesn't look nearly as foreboding. Perhaps it's the sunlight, perhaps a slight sense of familiarity. Bob French, Tony Mills and Carol Cunningham (from the Registrar's office at Terauley) arrive and we go inside.

As we walk up to the Chapel, I talk with Gail Burgess, one of this evenings co-ordinators. Why does she come? "I don't know really. Certainly not from any do-gooder feeling, though I guess there must be a bit of that involved. But you know you learn a lot about the country you live in from its jails, from studying its judicial system, seeing the people who don't "fit into" the structure of our society."

The men shuffle in. This is a new program aimed at a different corridor — men in for non-capital murder, assault, violence, with sentences exceeding two years. They seem to be a little older and there's a different atmosphere. No rowdiness.

Bob French explains why we're here and what the program's all about. After a while the atmosphere relaxes and questions arise. "Can we have a parole officer come and talk to us? A lawyer? A psychiatrist I know from Sunnybrook Hospital?"

The hour and a half is up amazingly soon. Several of the fellows troop over to shake hands and say good-bye and thanks.

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— Bart Soederhuysen photo

THE INN ON THE DON

THURSDAY NIGHT. I'm getting used to taking the streetcar out to Broadview and Gerrard. But tonight I'm in for another surprise. Tonight is Kiddies' Korner. Sesame Street, as Judy Lister puts it. This is the program for the 16 to 19 year-olds. Some look like they're barely into their teens. But don't let their appearance fool you, cautions Judy. They're in for anything from rape to attempted murder. They're a punchy, easily-swayed group taking their cues from their self-appointed leader, a funny little guy with a crew cut who talks like a junior Jimmy Cagney and has an opinion on everything. Tonight's speaker is Metro cop Don Stanley. Stanley speaks honestly and earnestly about the community services program now in effect. He admits there are cops who are brutal and that some kids do get beaten up unnecessarily but that attempts are being made to improve the system. He seems to get through to some of them. But then how can you tell?

The majority of "people who get into trouble with the law today", I later learn, are between the ages of 14 and 23.

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MONDAY, NOON. Bob French is leafing through a file at his desk in the Electronics lab.

"The long-term aim of the program," he is saying, "is to change the Department of Corrections to a correctional facility.

The short-term aim is to provide the inmate with useful information and, in a low key way, to motivate him to further education should he ever get out.

The third aim, also in a low key way, is to subvert the people in Corrections to a different approach to Corrections. We like to think it's working, but from time to time they give us grave doubts."

Bob French thinks that the next five years will see some significant changes in the judicial system.

"We've been pushing for three years now for the creation of — how shall I put it — community courts, where minor infractions of the law are handled at the community level with no criminal record involved. The Solicitor General's Law Reform Commission recently made this a recommendation." French was invited to work with this committee even though as he puts it, he has "no status with anybody".

He elaborates: "Canada has the highest number of inmates in jail per capita in the world. There has to be changes in our approach to victimless crimes, particularly drugs and legislated morality — right now it's illegal to be drunk. It costs $1.3 billion a year to run the legal system in Canada and that doesn't include welfare payments to inmates' wives, lawyers fees and what have you."

This is old stamping ground for Bob French. He's been involved, heavily involved, in the volunteer program for almost four years.

How did it all begin?

"When I was at OISE I met a resource person who worked for Corrections. Being interested in teaching, I asked him about educational facilities in institutions. He put me in touch with the Department of Corrections and about four months later I got a phone call saying 'start tomorrow'. It's been an uphill fight ever since."

Since its inception, the program has evolved from Department of Education correspondence courses to structured six week programs, to straight entertainment and finally to the current arrangement, which, says French, "we've had to stick with because of security problems, lack of facilities and the rapid turnover of inmates."

"You've got to remember, though, that we're in a situation which is a jail, a maximum security institution, a holding facility. The program reaches all the 16 to 19 year-olds, but only a very small percentage of the old building which holds anywhere between 500 to 750 male inmates at any one time."

Why has he kept going to the program every week for the last four years?

"Basically because I think this is something that needs changing. Very few people have the interest or the inclination. What we're fighting is social inertia on the one hand and entrenched bureaucracy on the other.

"But we're making some progress. Three years ago there was no way I could bring a reporter in to the Don. Today I can bring in pretty well whoever we want. The CBC Weekday crew was in recently — not too long ago that would have caused a security problem. We had Paul Rimstead in a few months ago. We almost got Johnny Cash."

One last question. I've noticed that 75 per cent of your volunteers are female. Why is this?

Bob French laughs. "I prefer girls because they supply a boost in morale. The inmates talk to fellows all day long. Besides, if a fellow prefers to talk to me rather than to a girl, he's got more problems than he thought he had."